

Cosponsor the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act (H.R. 4942)

Introduced by Reps. Paul Mitchell (R-MI), Tim Ryan (D-OH), and Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

Infrastructure in the United States is in critical need of an upgrade. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the U.S. system a D+ based on its capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, resilience, and innovation. Any investment to improve our country's system could create millions of new jobs, requiring millions of skilled workers to fill them.

A recent study by the Center of Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University estimated that a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment would create 11 million new jobs. Nearly half of these would require training past the high school level. Even without a significant investment, though, infrastructure industries are already struggling to meet workforce demands.

To ensure infrastructure investments benefit businesses, workers, and the economy, the U.S. must invest in the creation of a diverse pipeline of workers with skills necessary to access in-demand opportunities.

The Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills (BUILDS) Act

The BUILDS Act aims to ensure workers are prepared with skills needed for the jobs in fields such as construction, transportation, and energy that would be created by a major investment in infrastructure. The bill promotes industry or sector partnerships made up of local businesses and industry organizations, workforce boards, and education and training providers to support workforce training programs in infrastructure-related jobs.

Support Small-and Medium-Sized Businesses

Small- and medium-sized businesses are the nation's job creators, but they can't always afford to develop in-house training. The BUILDS Act invests in industry and sector partnerships that would help engage business in work-based learning and ensure worker success in these programs.

Support Private-Public Partnerships

Industry and sector partnerships are a proven strategy for helping workers prepare for middle-skill jobs and helping businesses find skilled workers. Congress requires states and local areas to support the development of these partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but no dedicated funding has been provided for these activities.

Close the Skills Gap and Get Americans back to Work

The BUILDS Act helps businesses recruit individuals for work-based learning, particularly individuals already seeking work. The BUILDS Act enables local industry or sector partners to provide pre-employment, early employment, and continuing employment services.

Specifically, the *BUILDS Act* would:

- Provide grants to industry or sector partnerships that encourage industry growth and competitiveness and collaborate to improve worker training, retention, and advancement in targeted infrastructure and transportation industry clusters
- Connect businesses and education providers to develop classroom curriculum to complement on-the-job learning
- Train managers and front-line workers to serve as mentors to people in the work-based learning programs
- Offer resources and career awareness programming to recruit and retain individuals for workforce training programs
- Provide support services to ensure workers are successful from pre-employment to placement in a full-time position

To sign on as a cosponsor, or for more information, please contact Hannah Shapiro with Rep. Mitchell (R-MI) at Hannah.Shapiro@mail.house.gov (5-2106) or Anne Sokolov with Rep. Ryan (D-OH) at Anne.Sokolov@mail.house.gov (5-5261).